

CLEAN VERSION**GOLF PUTTING ALIGNMENT SYSTEM****TECHNICAL INVENTION**

5 The invention relates to the game of golf and more importantly to a golf putter having an alignment arrangement based on the position of the shaft over a center line mark on the putter head.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Putting plays an important role in a successful round of golf. In order to technically execute a proper putt a golfer must be properly positioned relative to the ball and to an intended line of the putt. A putter has a striking face, which should be
15 aligned square to the desired path of the ball travel.

It is known that an alignment centerline is placed on the top surface of the putter to aid a golfer in positioning the face of a putter square to the target line of the putt. Typically, this
20 centerline or aiming line is perpendicular to the face and is positioned at the desired area of putter to ball impact.

In addition to having the putter face aligned to the intended target line a golfer must be in the proper position relative to

the ball to have proper golf techniques. The eyes of the golfer should be over the putter so that when the ball is struck the putter is returned to the proper position to send the ball on its desired target line.

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It takes regular practice to develop a putting stance and stroke to propel a golf ball on its intended target line. Golfers of all skill levels have been shown to find this eye position and putter alignment difficult to maintain over time.

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An object of the invention is to provide a putter that can be used to indicate when proper alignments have been attained for stroking a golf ball.

15 A putter that uses a shaft to facilitate alignment of a putter head and a golfer's head relative to a ball and a desired path of ball travel is shown, for example, in the following United States of America patent 5,564,990 - Weeks.

20 Though such a putter has achieved popularity and commercial success, there has been a continuing need for improvement.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention there is provided a golf putter having a putter head and an elongated putter shaft. The putter head has a striking face, a sole, a centerline marker marking a center of gravity of said putter head, a toe normally positioned remote from a user when in play and a heel opposite said toe. The elongated putter shaft has a grip on one end and, at an opposite end, attached to the putter head between the centerline marker and the toe, the putter shaft having a transverse marking which lines up vertically with the centerline marker on the putter head when a user is holding the putter in a putting position with the golfer's eyes over the centerline marker of the putter head.

Preferably, the centerline marker is perpendicular to the striking face and is vertically aligned with the center of gravity of the putter head.

Advantageously, the putter shaft extends across the putter head from proximate the toe towards the heel at an acute angle with the sole of the putter head, crossing the centerline of the putter head.

The putter shaft may extend up from putter head, when said putter is in the putting position and then angle towards the golfer.

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In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of aligning a putter and a golfer's eyes to a putter head and a desired line of travel, which includes providing a putter which has a shaft attached proximate a toe of a putter head and at least a portion of which shaft angles back towards a golfer when the golfer and the shaft are in the putting position. The method further includes placing a center line marker over a center of gravity of the putter head, and placing a marker on an upper side of the shaft of the putter which vertically aligns with the centerline marker when the putter is in the putting position; and holding the putter in the putting position and then aligning a golfer's eyes with the aligned mark on the shaft and the centerline mark on the putter head such that the putter head is perpendicular to the desired direction of travel of the golf ball.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE DRAWINGS

Further features and advantages will be apparent from the following detailed description, given by way of example, of a

preferred embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a elevation view showing the putter head and a portion
5 of the putter shaft;

Fig. 2 is a top view of the putter head and a portion of the putter shaft showing the shaft mark and the center line mark on the putter head; and

Fig. 3 is an elevation view showing a golfer with his eyes
10 aligned with the center line mark on the putter head and the mark on the shaft.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE DRAWINGS

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a putter shaft 1 is attached to a
15 putter head 6 proximate a toe 4 of the putter head 6. The putter head also has a heel 5, a sole 8 and a center line mark 3 which corresponds with a center of gravity of the putter head 6. A mark 2 on the upper side of the shaft 1 is placed so that with the putter in a putting position, the mark 2 is aligned with the
20 center line mark 3 on the top of the putter head 6. The mark on the top of the putter head is perpendicular to a strike face 7 of the putter head 6. The shaft extends from its point of attachment proximate the toe 4 across the centerline mark 3 towards a golfer when in the putting position.

Referring to Fig. 3, a golfer 9 is positioned over a putter 10, with the golfer's eyes over the marks on the shaft and the head 6. Complete alignment is achieved once the strike face 7 is
5 placed perpendicular to the desired direction of travel of a golf ball.

Accordingly, while this invention has been described with reference to illustrative embodiments, this description is not
10 intended to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the illustrative embodiments, as well as other embodiments of the invention, will be apparent to persons skilled in the art upon reference to this description. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover any
15 such modifications or embodiments as fall within the true scope of the invention.